

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00383 250747Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 EB-08 COME-00 H-02
/030 W

-----128993 250751Z /13

P R 230630Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6109
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USLO RIYADH

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0383

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (MACDONALD, JOHN RW
SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL DISPUTE - CASE OKXBBH R. MACDONALD

REF: STATE 072536

1. MACDONALD AND HIS SAUDI PARTNERS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SETTLE THEIR BUSINESS DISPUTE, IN SPITE OF MEDIATION EFFORTS BY CONGEN, THE LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, AND SAUDI OFFICIALS. THE MATTER HAS BEEN FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE UNWILLINGNESS OF EITHER SIDE CANCEL THEIR JOINT-VENTURE AGREEMENT (SINCE IT COULD BE HIGHLY PROFITABLE) AND BY THE NUMEROUS CLAIMS AND COUNTER-CLAIMS FOR GREATLY VARYING SUMS OF MONEY. TO BREAK THIS DEADLOCK CONSOFFS MET WITH THE EMIR OF THE EASTERN PROVINCE ON FEB 18 TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM. AT THIS MEETING, THE EMIRE AGREED MACDONALD SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO HIS FAMILY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND ORDERED MACDONALD BE RELEASED, UPON FINDING A SAUDI GUARANTOR, WHO WOULD ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MACDONALD IN THIS COMMERCIAL DISPUTE.

2. MACDONALD WAS UNABLE TO FIND A SAUDI GUARANTOR UNTIL RECENTLY AND THE SAUDI GUARANTOR REFUSED TO SIGN ANYTHING UNTIL HE KNEW THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT HE WOULD BE LIABLE FOR. NEITHER THE SAUDI POLICE NOR THE COMMECNRAL BOARD WAS ABLE TO SUPPLY THIS
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INFORMATION. THE EMIRATE THEN APPOINTED A SPECIAL COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE CASE AND DECIDE UPON A MIXIMUM FIGURE. THE COMMISSION HAS NOW COMPLETED ITS WORK AND CONSOFFS EXPECT TO SECURE THIS FIGURE FOR MACDONALD WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. ONCE THE SAUDI GUARANTOR HAS SIGNED THE PROPER DOCUMENTS, POST HOPES TO SECURE MACDONALD'S EXPEDITIOUS RELEASE.

3. SENATOR BENTSEN AND COGRESSMAN ARCHER INTERESTED.
BUSHNELL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
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